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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. During the period from 1951 through 1953, first-quality seeds, known as "super elite" seeds, produced by the various agricultural research centers, were made available to state farms. The state farms planted the "super elite" seeds on their own acreage and produced a quality of seeds known as "elite". The "elite" quality was planted on both state farms and Unified Agricultural Cooperatives (JZD); the resulting quality produced there was known as "original". By reproduction of the "original", a normal commercial seed was obtained.

2. "Super elite", "elite", and "original" seeds were not allocated to private farmers; thus, private farmers were excluded from this seed reproduction program. This policy resulted in a decrease in the over-all Czechoslovak crop yield of potatoes and clover because it considerably lessened acreage available for planting "elite"-quality seeds in the Bohemian-Moravian Highland area, as well as in the Tabor (N 49-25, E 14-40) and Pisek (N 49-18, E 14-09) areas. The two latter areas, largely made up of private farms, were the natural Czechoslovak areas for the production of potatoes and clover, respectively.

3. Grass-seed production results were even poorer. The traditional Czechoslovak export of grass seeds was discontinued because of a complete lack of quality seeds. Production of grasses was very poor on state farms and cooperatives in the Roznov pod Radhostem (N 49-28, E 18-08) area, which was the only area in Czechoslovakia for production of grass seeds. The grass-crop yield was poor mainly because of negligence and lack of experience.

4. The policy of the "new course" in agriculture, initiated in early 1954, made quality seeds, mainly "elite"-quality seed potatoes, available to private farmers again. In the Roznov area, previous practices were completely restored. The private farmers were allowed to procure the "super-elite"-quality grass seeds directly from the Research Center for Grasses in Roznov.

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